

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 DHA-02 /065 W

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O R 051030Z AUG 76

FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4948

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS JOHANNESBURG 1293

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS SF

SUBJECT: SECOND DAY AFTER SOWETO DEMONSTRATIONS

1. SECOND MORNING AFTER FLARE-UP OF SOWETO DEMONSTRATIONS ON AUGUST 4 IS STILL RELATIVELY CALM. BUS SERVICE RESTORED AND TRAIN SERVICE PARTIALLY SO. CONGENS BLACK EMPLOYEES TRICKLING BACK TO WORK, BUT ABSENTEEISM IN JOHANNESBURG WILL PROBABLY BE HIGH.

2. SOON AFTER PROTEST MARCHERS YESTERDAY WERE DISPERSED AND FRUSTRATED IN EFFORTS TO LEAVE SOWETO AND MARCH ON JOHANNESBURG, MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND POLICE KRUGER REIMPOSED BAN ON OPEN-AIR GATHERINGS AT LEAST TILL END OF AUGUST. POLICE COMMISSIONER PRINSLOO STATED HE COULD NOT PREDICT WHETHER RELATIVE CALM WOULD BE BROKEN IN SOWETO TODAY, BUT SAID POLICE WERE PREPARED TO COPE WITH ANY SITUATION. IT IS CLEAR THAT POLICE WILL DO EVERYTHING REQUIRED TO CONTROL UNREST AND CONTAIN ANY DEMONSTRATION WITHIN SOWETO. AFRIKAANS-LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER BEELD REPORTED POLICE KNOWLEDGE OF BLACK'S INTENTIONS RENEW PROTESTS TODAY.

3. VIOLENCE YESTERDAY, IN ADDITION TO REPORTED THREE

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DEAD AND EIGHTEEN INJURED, INCLUDED BURNING OF ONE

SCHOOL, ONE LIQUOR STORE, AND SEVERAL HOMES, INCLUDING THOSE OF BLACK POLICEMEN AND EVEN MOLOTOV COCKTAIL ATTACK ON HOUSE OF WINNIE MANDELA, EXECUTIVE MEMBER OF BLACK PARENT'S ASSOCIATION. NO SERIOUS INCIDENTS ELSEWHERE ON WITWATERSRAND.

4. BEELD EDITORIALIZED TODAY (AUGUST 5) THAT "SOWETO NUMBER TWO" COULD BE FOLLOWED BY "NUMBER THREE" AND QUESTIONED USE OF FORCE AS ONLY REAL RESPONSE. IT SAID THAT WHILE CHARGES OF AGITATION MIGHT HAVE SOME BASIS, NOT MUCH ORGANIZATION WAS NECESSARY IN SOWETO WHEN GRIEVANCES WERE SO SERIOUS AND GENERAL. RAND DAILY MAIL (AUGUST 5) EDITORIALIZED IN SAME VEIN:

"THE AUTHORITIES DARE NO LONGER TOY WITH THE MIS-CONCEPTION THAT THE UNREST IS ALL THE WORK OF INTIMIDATORS AND AGITATORS, EXPLOITING UNIMPORTANT OR IMAGINARY GRIEVANCES. UNDOUBTEDLY THERE HAS BEEN BOTH AGITATION AND INTIMIDATION. BUT THAT COULD HARDLY HAVE KEPT TEMPERS INFLAMED SO STRONGLY FOR SO LONG UNLESS THERE WERE VERY REAL ISSUES INVOLVED."

5. IRONIC THAT SAG RELEASED CASUALTY FIGURES YESTERDAY FOR JUNE 16 RIOTS AS FOLLOWS: 176 KILLED, 1139 INJURED, AND 1298 ARRESTED. 30 TO 40 PERCENT OF CASUALTIES RESULTED FROM POLICE BULLETS. 22 POLICEMEN INJURED.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL DISORDERS, PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, PUBLIC ATTITUDES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976JOHANN01293
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760301-1314
From: JOHANNESBURG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760884/aaaacwan.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUL 2004 by hattaycs>; APPROVED <27 JUL 2004 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECOND DAY AFTER SOWETO DEMONSTRATIONS
TAGS: PINS, SF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006